GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4012
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2007
IMPORT OF LNG
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to import Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from other countries;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the estimated requirement of LNG in the Eleventh Plan;

(d) the domestic production expected in that period; and

(e) the quantum of gas proposed to be imported during that plan period particularly from Iran?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (e): In order to meet existing shortfall and growing demand of natural gas in the country, Government is also pursuing the import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL) has signed contract with RasGas Qatar for import of 7.5 MMTPA LNG for a period of 25 years. RasGas Qatar is already supplying 5 MMTPA LNG and the supply of balance 2.5 MMTPA LNG would commence from mid 2009.

GAIL, IOC and BPCL have signed contracts with National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC) on June 13, 2005 for import of 5 MMTPA LNG, which is scheduled to commence from 2009. Simultaneously, the parties also signed a side letter to the LNG SPA, as per which NIGEC had to obtain the approval of their parent company, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), for the SPA to become effective. NIGEC has not obtained the approval of NIOC`s Board till now.

PLL is setting up 2.5 MMTPA LNG Terminal, with a provision for expansion to 5 MMTPA, at Kochi. PLL is at advanced stage of negotiations with Exxon Mobil for import of 2.5 MMTPA LNG from LNG project at Gorgon, Australia for Kochi LNG Terminal.

GAIL is holding discussions with various potential suppliers of LNG for import of LNG on long-term basis from the year 2009 onwards for Dabhol LNG Terminal.

The demand for Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) is not assessed separately. It depends on the total demand for natural gas in the country. The Working Group on Petroleum & Natural Gas Sector for the XI Plan has projected demand and supply of natural gas during 2011-12 at 279.43 MMSCMD and 285.42 MMSCMD, respectively which includes 83.12 MMSCMD of RLNG (23.75 MMTPA). Out of 285.42 MMSCMD of projected supply of gas for the year 2011-12, 202.30MMSCMD is expected, from domestic production.